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SOME PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED ABORIGINAL ARTIFACT SITES NEAR PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Very little archaeological work has been done in Western Australia, and before any can be done archaeological sites must be found. Here several sites, not previously recorded, are described, and lists are given of main implement types which have been found on them. All material described in this paper is now in the collection of the Western Australian Museum, Perth.

1. Monger's Lake

The surrounds of the lake are generally rich in artifacts which are found mainly in two places. These are:—

(a) A wind-eroded sand dune at the west end of the lake where G. A. Philipp and I collected material. This collection included millstones, mullers, anvils, adze flakes, scrapers, symmetrical and asymmetrical uniface points and many chips and flakes. These were manufactured mainly from quartzite, quartz and dolerite (W.A.M. No. A12745). Both raw and prepared ochres were also found here.

(b) The velodrome site at the northern end of the lake where Miss K. Vollprecht and I collected several worked specimens of quartz, quartzite, dolerite and chert. Implement types included flakes, chips, the portion of a muller and ochres (W.A.M. No. A12746).

2. Hillcrest

At the north end of Beaufort Street a site was exposed when levelling was carried out prior to the erection of Hillcrest Primary School. Here I found about ten flakes bearing bulbs of percussion eight feet below the modern surface level. These were made of a cherty material and, upon examination by Drs. H. Petri and G. Oderman of Frankfurt and Father Worms of Beagle Bay Mission, the opinion was expressed that these were possibly of ancient origin (W.A.M. No. A12747).

3. Walyunga

Walyunga is a sandy area of about two acres on the north bank of the Swan River, one mile south of its junction with the Woorlool

Brook (Military Survey 1 inch map 393 (Toodyay) 066745). The surface of this site is without vegetation and is littered with numerous chips, flakes and larger artifacts. Collections I have made from here contain: millstones, mullers, anvils, non-utilized cores, utilized cores, trimmed eoroid implements which include an edge-ground axe-head and a possible kodja stone, scrapers, seraper knife (elouera), adze flakes, re-edged adze flakes ("slugs"), symmetrical and asymmetrical unifacial points, other chips and flakes, and raw and prepared ochres (W.A.M. Nos. A12202/22, A12748). Walyunga is surrounded by hills upon which I have found millstones, percussion stones, scrapers, utilized cores and adze flakes. The hill sites appear to be camping areas but the main Walyunga site is probably a factory site. Most of the small flakes found on the site



Location of aboriginal artifact sites near Perth: 1, Monger's Lake. 2, Hillcrest. 3, Walyunga. 4, South Bullsbrook. 5, Plunkett Mill. 6, Orange Grove. 7, Brockman River. 8, Wooroloo Brook. 9, Gayamin Pool. 10, Moondyne Springs.

are of quartzite, but flakes of amorphous and crystalline quartz and chaledony also occur. The majority of the larger artifacts are of dolerite or quartz.

4. South Bullsbrook

Three hundred yards east of the 23-mile peg on the Great Northern Highway is a sand-blow rich in material similar to that which occurs at Walyunga. My collections from here include millstones, mullers, anvils, non-utilized and utilized cores, scrapers, adze flakes, symmetrical and asymmetrical uniface points, other chips and flakes, and prepared and raw oehres (W.A.M. No. A12749).

5. Plunkett Mill

Four miles north-east of the South Chittering Road elbow on the edge of a swamp (Military Survey 1 inch map 393 (Toodyay) 162905) is an aboriginal site. The collection from here, unlike those from the other sites mentioned in this paper, contains only a single flake. Otherwise the artifacts comprise coroids, millstones, mullers and anvils (W.A.M. Nos. A12738/41, A12750).

The site is probably a home-site. The artifacts (which are of quartz or dolerite) were easily visible against the predominant laterite, and it is of interest that most were found under large marri trees (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) while few were found under jarrah (*E. marginata*) which is the dominant tree in the area.

The most interesting find at Plunkett Mill was a pit which contained the following artifacts:—two edge-ground axeheads of Kimberley type (W.A.M. Nos. A12734/5), one small polished axehead of probable Melanesian or Polynesian origin (W.A.M. No. A12736), a small quartz core (W.A.M. No. A12732) and a primary flake of quartzite with a distinct bulb of percussion (W.A.M. No. A12733). This pit is in the swamp and is inundated with water for about six months of the year.

6. Orange Grove

The site here is a sand pit (which is an old beach), one mile north of the Orange Grove School (Military Survey 1 inch map 405 (Kelmescott) 011401) and has yielded mullers, anvils, adze flakes and chips (W.A.M. No. A12751).

7. Brockman River

There is a site near the confluence of the Brockman and Avon Rivers. Here I have collected mullers, anvils and asymmetrical uniface points (W.A.M. Nos. A12752).

8. Wooroloo Brook

On the levee near where this stream converges with the Swan River I have found mullers, anvils, chips and flakes (W.A.M. Nos. A12753).

9. Gayamin Pool

This is a pool of "permanent" water near Lower Chittering (Military Survey 1 inch map 393 (Toodyay) 148965), where I have collected abrading and percussion implements (W.A.M. No. A12754).

10. Moondyne Springs

This site is on a bald hill top (Military Survey 1 inch map 393 (Toodyay) 189872), eight miles north of Wooroloo across the Avon River. Near here I have found mullers and cores (W.A.M. No. A12755).

From these and other more minor observations in this area which I have made over the past years it is probable that further archaeological sites will be found in the south-west of this State. Lack of interested recorders has undoubtedly prevented such sites from being known and it is to be hoped that this article will stimulate the locating and recording of further sites. It is essential that such areas when found are disturbed as little as possible; surface finds should be reported to the Museum so that they may be recorded and implement types classified. No digging should be done without the assistance of trained excavators since irreparable damage may result and vital evidence be destroyed (cf. Baker, *W.A. Nat.*, 4, 1953: 40).

Naturalists wishing to examine sites recorded here must first obtain permission from the owners of the properties upon which they occur, since obviously the owners are desirous of having them disturbed as little as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am happy to acknowledge the assistance of the Martin Brothers and Mr. J. F. Sparkes for allowing access to the sites on their properties. I also wish to thank Dr. W. D. L. Ride for his encouragement and assistance.

LITERATURE

The terminology used throughout this paper is that given in McCarthy, F. D., Bramell, E., and Noone, H. V. V., 1946. The Stone Implements of Australia, *Mem. Aust. Mus.* Sydney, 9.

The axes mentioned in this paper will be fully described and discussed in Ride, W. D. L., The Edge-ground Axes of South-Western Australia. *W.A. Nat.* (in press).

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOUNTAIN DEVIL IN CAPTIVITY

By C. C. SPORN, Mandurah.

In an earlier article (*W.A. Nat.*, 5, 1955: 1) I described the experiences of my wife and myself in rearing the Mountain Devil (*Moloch horridus*) in captivity, and gave data on incubation periods, early growth rate and on some habits of this lizard. Since then additional observations have been made which may be placed on record.

GROWTH RATE

I gave the growth rate of a young Mountain Devil during the first 12 months as follows: at hatching, 6 cm.; at 9 months, 9.6 cm.; at 12 months, 11.5 cm. (measurements made on "Agatha," the young lizard referred to on p. 3 of my previous article).